

---

## **USDA/Food Distribution**

### **Project No. 1**

---

**Project No 1: Process Control Certification Program (PCCP)**

**State Partner:** All States receiving product from PCCP processors

**Industry Partners:** Pierre Foods and H &H Meat Company

**Scope:** All products processed by PCCP processors

**Background:** Currently under traditional grading, AMS meat graders continuously monitor each line running donated commodities. The current system only requires graders to count and record cases of donated commodity processed and end products shipped. Apart from AMS grading processors must have Hazard Analysis Critical Control Processes in place.

**Project Description:** AMS Meat Grading and Certification Branch works with individual processors to perform risk analysis of all processes, which include: 1) donated product traceability, 2) product formulation, 3) portion size, 4) ingredient amounts, 5) cooking and freezing temperatures, 6) packaging and 7) shipment of finished products to states or school districts. This pilot tests streamlining the checks and increasing the observations of graders in the plant to improve accountability, record keeping and traceability of donated food processing. The process control certification program is unique to each facility, uses in-house quality control systems and forms, and is designed in full cooperation between the plant and the grading staff.

**Status:** The PCCP pilot began in July 2000. Both processors have requested extension and been approved to operate under PCCP for three years.

**Findings Thus Far:** The PCCP is appropriate for companies with quality control programs which include using bar coding on pallets and containers for tracing all products from the raw material through processing to the consumer. PCCP can result in reduced grading cost, once systems are in place, by reducing the number of graders required to monitor the operation.

**Contact Party for Further Information:**

**AMS Lead:**

Larry Meadows, Chief  
Meat Grading and Certification Branch  
Agriculture Marketing Service - USDA  
[Larry.Meadows@usda.gov](mailto:Larry.Meadows@usda.gov)

Revised: 04/10/01